

THE BLOOMFIELD

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BLOOMFIELD, N. J., SATURDAY

CAUGHT NAPPING.

RUMORS FROM TRENTON CAUSE MUCH EXCITEMENT IN BLOOMFIELD.

All About a Bill Dividing the Town of Bloomfield—Its Object to Create the Township of Glen Ridge.

THE CITIZEN said last week that obituaries over the supposed defunct village of Glen Ridge were probably premature. Subsequent developments proved the correctness of the surmise. Several dwellers on the Ridge felt a little piqued that any one should have the audacity to look upon this pet scheme as being dead, and in their eagerness to dissuade the public mind a very lively cat was let out of a concealed bag, and Bloomfield was thrown into a state of excitement over a rumor that a bill would be introduced into the Legislature on Monday night to set apart a portion of this township for the purpose of creating a new township.

The story got abroad on Sunday morning, and soon became the all-absorbing topic of conversation. Groups gathered on the streets and talked about it. Men on their way to and from church talked about it. The policemen talked about it, and could not conceive why the Town Committee did not order a wholesale arrest of Glen Ridgers at once. Politicians talked about it and compared notes as to the best move to kill the bill. The only practical conclusion arrived at was that a purse should be made up at once and placed in the hands of some astute knowing one who could place the money to advantage. The women, who viewed the matter from a social standpoint, were horrified. Town Committeemen were seen running to and fro, trying to decide on a plan of action. It was conceded on all sides that Glen Ridge had thrown the biggest bomb-shell into camp that had landed for some time.

The excitement was not at all abated on Monday. Men put their imaginations to work to fix the responsibility. The following is the generally accepted theory, though it may be entirely devoid of truth:

Joseph D. Gallagher and Robert S. Rudd are charged with getting their heads together and framing the bill and placing it in the custody of A. S. Niven. Mr. Niven is charged with stowing it carefully away in his coat pocket and taking it to Hoboken, and there placing it in the hands of a trusted Hudson County Member of the Assembly with instructions to introduce it in the House. E. P. Mitchell is charged with advising that it be introduced as a party measure in order to insure its passage. Arthur J. Lockwood is charged with giving orders to the surveyors to make the map of the proposed township.

The secrecy with which the plan was worked out evinces the fact that it was not trusted to novices. Sage Bloomfielders are confronted with the mortifying fact that they were caught napping. The ease with which the local politicians have knocked out Glen Ridge in local contests has caused the Ridge to be looked upon as of no consequence politically. In the higher moves of the game the Glen Ridge politicians have demonstrated the fact that they are not to be "sneezed at." Certain people of a retrospective turn of mind look back to the time when Governor Abbe spent a night in Glen Ridge, and allege that recent developments date their origin to that memorable night. Others less sentimental say that the disastrous defeat of Glen Ridge in the contest for a school trustee is the cause that has led up to the present disaffection.

At the meeting of the Town Committee on Monday night one of the first topics brought up was the Glen Ridge matter. The Committee were very much alarmed. They discussed the subject in private, and such remarks as "what Senator Barrett had said," and "what Assemblymen Kalisch, Hardin, and Dempsey had said," proved that the Committeemen had not been idle during the day, and every available man who had even the remotest influence at Trenton had been seen.

Messrs. Gilbert and Rayner were appointed a committee to hurry off to the State Capitol on Tuesday morning and endeavor to checkmate the move. It was also decided to hold a public meeting of citizens in Dodd's Hall.

Messrs. Gilbert and Rayner went to Trenton on Tuesday. They hunted up Assemblyman Cole of Hudson County, who said he had the bill, and that it was given him by a Mr. Niven of Montclair.

Mr. Cole showed them a copy of the advertisement, showing that due notice had been given of the intention to introduce the bill. The Committee talked with Messrs. Kalisch, Hardin, Dempsey, and other Essex County members, all of whom were ignorant of the existence of the bill. The Essex County members were of the opinion that it could not be carried through the House, and they

promised to notify the Committee if it was introduced.

Joseph D. Gallagher, whose name had been brought into prominence in the matter, was asked if there was any truth in the rumor that he and Messrs. Rudd and Mitchell had a hand in the bill. Mr. Gallagher replied in the negative. He had not conversed with Mr. Rudd on the subject, and was doubtful if the latter knew anything at all about what was going on.

Mr. Mitchell was in entire ignorance of the scheme, and knew nothing about it until he read it in the newspapers. Mr. Gallagher said that shortly after the appointment of the Committee authorized by resolution at the meeting in Glen Ridge Hall, some of them came to him with a copy of the Verona bill and requested him to go over it and make such alterations as were necessary to make it apply to Glen Ridge. He did so, making a rough draft of a bill. Something was said at the time about introducing a bill in the Legislature. Mr. Gallagher advised against it, as it was too late. He was not aware that steps were taken to introduce it, and the announcement in the early part of the week was as much of a surprise to him as anybody. He favors a fair, free and open discussion of the whole matter, and is opposed to any "snap" movement.

Mr. Gallagher added that when he got ready to frame a bill for making a separate town of Glen Ridge, he would take good care to let the people of Bloomfield know all about it.

The Glen Ridge movement deeply concerns many important interests in the town, and not the least among them the Fire Department. A large portion of the executive element in the Truck Company reside in Glen Ridge, and they are loath to be legislated out of the finest fire brigade in the State. Many of them are puzzling their brains to devise some technicality by which they can retain their citizenship in Bloomfield. It is thought that by keeping a night-robe hung up in the American House and having their linen laundried at the Chinese laundry in the Centre, they will continue to be full-fledged citizens of Bloomfield and entitled to all the rights and privileges as such.

Blasted Hopes.

An adverse vote in the House of Assembly on Monday night shattered the hopes of the numerous aspirants for the office of Police Justice in the townships of this county. The judicial ermine will not grace the shoulders of those who were reported as endeavoring to secure the coveted prize. Orders for "Blackstone," it is said, have been rescinded and the advent of a second "Daniel" to distinguish between the flesh and the blood of the law has been indefinitely postponed. A certain degree of dignity accompanies the varied vocations of life, but in none of them does it reach the same altitude nor is it more impressively exemplified than in the person of a Judge. Very few men are gifted by nature with the quantity of dignity requisite to grace an interpreter of the law. Bloomfield is blessed beyond measure in having so many citizens highly qualified in that respect. It is a matter of sincere regret that the opportunity to display this excellent quality has been denied to so many of our citizens. The burden of judicial dignity still rests upon the shoulder of our Justices of the Peace. They have maintained it well in the past.

Ordered to Clear the Sidewalks.

Residents of the Glen Ridge district were surprised last Sunday morning by the summary notice served on them to clean the snow and ice from the sidewalks fronting their property. Acting under order, from the Chairman of the Township Committee, a policeman visited the dilatory residents and ordered them to have the sidewalks cleaned at once or submit to a penalty of five dollars fine. There is a township ordinance bearing on the subject. The summary enforcement of the ordinance gave rise to considerable indignant comment.

Death of Rosie Noon.

Rosie Noon, nineteen years of age, daughter of the late James Noon and the niece of Thomas J. Flannery, with whom she has resided since the death of her parents, died on Thursday morning from consumption. Miss Noon's death is deeply deplored by her many friends. Her illness assumed a very serious turn on Wednesday night, and she realized that her end was near. Her last hours were spent in prayer and she met death peacefully. Funeral services will be held this morning at 8.30.

Injured at the Car Stables.

George Slater had a narrow escape from serious injury last Saturday morning while getting off the horse-car at the stables on B'oomfield Avenue. The driver started just as Slater was stepping off, and he was crushed between the car and an iron post, bruising his body considerably. Mr. Slater talks of bringing suit against the company for damages.

Timely Advice.

Right word at the right season. I am ready to clean your carpets with the least possible inconvenience to you. D. Douglas, Jr., No. 5-9 Park St., Montclair, N. J.—Adv.

A REMODELLED CHURCH.

HOW THE BAPTIST CHURCH WAS REOPENED.

An Improved Church Building—Services of Great Interest and Enthusiasm.

This week has been an occasion of much rejoicing to the Baptists of Bloomfield in connection with the reopening of their enlarged and improved place of worship. The first services were held last Sunday, when the pastor, the Rev. C. A. Cook, preached both morning and evening. His text in the morning was I Kings 8:11. "For the glory of the Lord had filled the house of the Lord." He said this was the most significant event in connection with the dedication of Solomon's temple, and signified God's approval and acceptance of the house. Without God's presence in the house it could never have been a fountain of blessing to the people. And so what advantage will the improvements that have been made in this building be if we have not some unmistakable token from God that He graciously approves of what has been done, and accepts the building as His dwelling place. Our chief concern should be not what we think about the building, or what others think, but what does God think? The presence of God's glory teaches us to value the spiritual more than the material. Christians had better worship in a barn and have faith in God, zeal in His service, and love for souls, than have the most elaborately finished building and these things be lacking. The services of God's house were shown to be identified with all human interests. The highest welfare of the people is secured just as they maintain an intimate relation with the services of God's house. Those who neglect these services are losers in every way. The highest welfare of the community, the State, the nation, is advanced by the sanctuaries that are scattered all over the land. Remove these and in a generation this nation would sink into a condition worse than Russia.

In closing his sermon Mr. Cook announced that the seats in the church were free and that the poorest in the community would be as welcome as the richest.

At the morning service no appeal was made for money for the building fund, but a collection was taken for Foreign Missions, which was one of the largest for that work in the history of the church.

In the evening the building was filled to its utmost capacity. The sermon was from the words, "We preach Christ crucified" I Cor. 1:23. Preaching the Gospel was shown to be the great work God had given the church to do, and by giving anything whatever more importance than preaching, the church became recreant to her divinely appointed duty. The preaching of Christ crucified is what the world needs to-day more than anything else. This theme included every other theme the true preacher was to speak upon, and it was a theme ever new and inexhaustible. Christ crucified had been preached for over eighteen hundred years and the subject was not yet worn out.

The singing of the choir, led by the new organ, was exceptionally good. The anthem in the morning was, "The Lord is exalted," and in the evening, "Seek ye the Lord," the solo of the latter being admirably rendered by Mr. E. M. Healy. The playing by Mrs. E. E. Baldwin showed that familiarity with the new instrument had been gained, and that the player had already learned how to bring out the sweetness and volume of its tone.

The meeting on Monday evening was a grand gathering of the Christian people of the various denominations to join with their brethren, the Baptists, in their time of rejoicing. After devotional exercises, which were conducted by the Rev. E. D. Clough of Orange, the pastor called attention to the dates 1851-1891 in immortelles on an evergreen background, which hung just above him in the pulpit recess. It was explained that the church had really reached its fortieth anniversary on November 25, 1891, but it was arranged to postpone any formal celebration of the event till the church was reopened. Mr. Cook also called attention to the various changes and improvements which had been made. The rear wall stands fully two feet farther back than before. It is spanned by three gothic arches, beneath two of which are deep alcoves running back into the new building. In one of these stands the new pipe organ and the other is occupied by the pulpit platform and baptistery. The seating has been changed from chairs to pews, and there is room for about fifty more people.

The report of the Building Committee was read by the Chairman, Mr. D. G. Garabrant. A brief historical sketch of the building fund, which was started some twenty-five years ago, was given. The first money devoted to the work was a box of nickels collected by